

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 673, FEBRUARY 6, 8 P.M.

SENT BONN 603, REPEATED INFORMATION DEPARTMENT 673, LONDON 124,  
MOSCOW 205, PARIS 156, POLAD USAREUR 206.

PARIS FOR EMB, USRO, CINCEUR THURSTON AND WEST

REF OURTEL 597 TO BONN 667 TO DEPT

POLITICAL ADVISERS MET THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS TRUCK INCIDENT  
AND AGREED ON US PROPOSAL TO RECOMMEND TO RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES  
BONN THAT INSPECTION ISSUE BE TAKEN UP TRIPARTITELY IN MOSCOW  
WITH SOV FONOFF. (SEE LAST PARA REFTEL.)

ALTHOUGH IT UNLIKELY SOVS WILL AGREE TO SETTLE ISSUE TO OUR  
SATISFACTION, WE BELIEVE DEMARCHE IN MOSCOW MIGHT HAVE EFFECT  
OF RESTRAINING RUSSIAN ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE WITH OUR TRUCK TRAFFIC  
DURING TIME ISSUE BEING DISCUSSED IN MOSCOW. IF MOSCOW  
DEMARCHE AGREED UPON, WE WOULD PROPOSE INFORMING MARKUSHIN  
AT ONCE THAT WE AGREE WITH HIM INSPECTION ISSUE WILL  
HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED AT HIGHER LEVELS AND THAT MATTER WILL BE  
TAKEN UP IN MOSCOW.

USCOB, BRITISH AND FRENCH COMMANDANTS CONCUR IN THIS PROPOSAL.

BRITISH POLAD EXPRESSED VIEW THAT, IF MOSCOW DEMARCHE MADE,  
ISSUES INVOLVED ARE SO COMPLICATED IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY EVENTUALLY  
TO RETURN NEGOTIATIONS TO BERLIN, WITH BERLIN NEGOTIATORS ACTING  
AS REPRESENTATIVES THEIR MOSCOW PRINCIPLES.

BRITISH POLAD ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF DEMARCHE MADE ALLIED SHOULD  
BE PREPARED TO OFFER A CONCESSION: SPECIFICALLY, WHERE TRUCK

PERMANENT

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-2- 673, FEBRUARY 6, 8 P.M., FROM BERLIN

TAILGATES HIGH AND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE INSIDE TRUCK FROM GROUND, ALLIES SHOULD PERMIT RUSSIANS TO CLIMB UP ON TAILGATES TO LOOK IN, BUT NOT TO ENTER. USPOLAD DISAGREED, ON GROUNDS THAT

1) A PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED WHICH IS VITAL TO OUR ACCESS TO BERLIN. ANY CONCESSION REPRESENTS SIGN OF WEAKNESS, AND THIS NO RPT NO TIME TO SHOW WEAKNESS.

2) ONE CONCESSION ONLY LEADS TO ANOTHER DEMAND--TO WIT, WHEN WE WERE DISPATCHING COVERED VEHICLES INSPECTION DISPUTE CENTERED ONLY ON THEM; NOW THAT WE CONFINE OURSELVES TO VEHICLES WHICH ARE AT LEAST PARTIALLY OPEN, SOVS NOW SAY VEHICLES NOT DISCOVERED ENOUGH.

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